

OVERTURE

For an ACT, For Security of the Kingdom.

THe Estates of Parliament considering, That when it shall please GOD to afflict this Nation with the Death of Our SOVERAIGN LADY the Queen, (whom GOD of his Infinite Mercy long preserve) if the same shall happen to be without Heirs of Her Body: This Kingdom may fall into great Confusion, and Disorder before a Successor can be Declared. For Preventing thereof, Our Sovereign Lady, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, Statutes and Ordains, That if at the foresaid time, any Parliament or Convention of Estates shall be assembled, then the Members of that Parliament, or Convention of Estates shall take the Administration of the Government upon them: Excepting those Barrons and Burrows, who at the foresaid time shall have any place, or Pension, mediately, or immediately of the Crown: whose Commissions are hereby declared to be void: and that New Members shall be chosen in their place: But if there be no Parliament, or Convention of Estates assembled, then the Members of the current Parliament shall assemble with all possible Diligence: And if there be no current Parliament, then the Members of the last dissolved Parliament, or Convention of Estates shall assemble in like manner: and in those two last cases, so soon as there shall be one Hundred Members met, in which Number the Barrons and Burrows before-mentioned are not to be reckoned, They shall take the Administration of the Government upon them: But neither they nor the Members of Parliament, or Convention of Estates, if at the time foresaid assembled, shall proceed to the Weighty Affair of Naming, and Declaring a Successor, till Twenty Days after they have assumed the Administration of the Government: both that there may be time for all the other Members to come to *Edinburgh* which is hereby declared the place of their Meeting, and for the Elections of new Barrons, and Burrows in place above-mentioned. But so soon as the Twenty Days are elapsed, then they shall proceed to the publishing by Proclamation, the Conditions of the Government on which they will receive the Successor to the Imperial Crown of this Realm: which in the case only of our being under the same King with *England*, are as follows.

1. That Elections shall be made at every *Michaelmas* Head-Court, for a New Parliament every Year: to sit the first of *November* thereafter, and Adjourn themselves from time to time, till next *Michaelmas*: That they choose their own President, and that every thing shall be determined by balloting, in place of Voting.
2. That so many lesser Barrons shall be added to the Parliament, as there has been Noble Men created since the last Augmentation of the Number of the Barrons, and that in all time coming, for every Noble-man that shall be created, there shall be a Barron added to the Parliament.
3. That no Man have Vote in Parliament but a Noble-man, or elected Member.
4. That the King shall give the Sanction to all Laws offered by the Estates; And that the President of the Parliament be impowered by His Majesty to give the Sanction in his absence, and have Ten pounds *sterling* a day Salary.
5. That a Committee of one and Thirty Members, of which Nine to be a *Quorum*, chosen out of their own Number, by every Parliament; that during the Intervals of Parliament under the King, have the Administration of the Government, by his Council, and accountable to the next Parliament: with power in extraordinary Occasions, to call the Parliament together: and that in the said Council, all Things be determined by Balloting, in place of Voting.

6. That

6. That the King without consent of Parliament, shall not have the power of making Peace and War : or that of concluding any Treaty with any other State or Potentate.

7. That all places and Offices, both civil and Military, and all Pensions formerly conferred by our Kings shall ever after be given by Parliament.

8. That no Regiment or Company of Horse, Foot, or Dragoons be kept on Foot, in peace or War, but by consent of Parliament.

9. That all the Fencible Men of the Nation betwixt Sixty and Sixteen, be with all Diligence possible, Armed, with Bagonets and Fire-locks all of a calibre, and continue always provided in such Arms, with Amunition suitable.

10. That no general Indemnity, nor pardon for any Transgression against the Publick, shall be valid without consent of Parliament.

11. That the fifteen *Senators* of the Colledge of Justice, shall be incapable of being Members of Parliament, or any other Office, or any pension, but the Sallary that belongs to their place, to be increased as the Parliament shall think fit : That the Office of President shall be in Three of their Number to be named by Parliament, and that there be no Extraordinary Lords. And also, that the Lords of the Justice Court, shall be distinct from those of the Session, and under the same Restrictions.

12. That if any King, break in upon any of those Conditions of Government, he shall by the Estates, be declared to have Forefeited the Crown.

Which Proclamation made, they are to go on to the Naming and Declaring a Successor : and when He is declared, if present, are to read to him the Claim of Right, and Conditions of Government above-mentioned, and to desire of him, that he may accept the Crown accordingly ; and he accepting, they are to Administat to him the Oath of Coronation : But if the Successor be not present, they are to delegat such of their own Number as they shall think fit, to see the same performed, as said is : And are to continue in the Administration of the Government, until the Successor his accepting of the Crown, upon the foresaid Terms be well known to them : Whereupon having then a King at their Head, they shall by his Authority, declare themselves a Parliament, and proceed to the doing of what ever shall be thought expedient for the Welfare of the Realm : And it is likewise, by Authority foresaid declared, That if Her present Majesty shall think fit, during Her own time, with advice and consent of the Estates of Parliament, failzieing Heirs of Her Body, to declare a Successor, yet nevertheless, after Her Majesties decease, the Members of Parliament or Convention shall in the several cases, and after the manner above-specified, meet, and admitt the Successor to the Government, in the Terms, and after the manner as said is. And it is hereby further declared, That after the Decease of Her Majesty, and failzieing Heirs of Her Body, the fore-mentioned manner, and method, shall in the several cases, be that of declaring, and admitting to the Government, all those who shall hereafter Succeed to the Imperial Crown of this Realm : And that it shall be High Treason for any Man, to own or acknowledge any person as King or Queen of this Realm till they are declared, and admitted in the above-mentioned manner. And lastly, it is hereby declared, that by the Death of Her Majesty, or any of Her Successors, all Commissions both civil and Military, fall and are void. And that this Act shall come in place of the 17th Act of the 6th Session of King William's Parliament. And all Acts and Laws, that any ways Derogat from this present Act, are hereby, in so far, Declared Void, and Abrogat.

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